CLAIMS

1. A container comprising a container body with an upwardly opening mouth defined by a peripheral rim, a lid for said body, a hinge assembly mounting said lid on said body for pivotal movement of the lid relative to the body about a pivot axis between a first closed position overlying and enclosing said container mouth and a second open position upwardly pivoted away from said mouth, and a spring of an elastomeric material extending transverse across said pivot axis, first retaining means on said body retaining a first end of said spring, second retaining means on said lid retaining a second opposed end of said spring, said spring having an area of maximum thickness centrally between said first and second ends, said spring tapering in opposite directions from said central area of maximum thickness to a minimum thickness at each said first and second end, said spring in said open position of said lid extending in a substantially linear position and elastically resisting pivotal movement of said lid to said closed position, said spring, upon manual movement of said lid to said closed position, folding centrally at said area of maximum thickness against an inherent elastic memory in said spring biasing said spring to said linear position, and latch means for releasably retaining said lid in said closed position, said spring upon release of said latch means forcibly moving said lid to and retaining said lid in said open position.

2. The container of claim 1 wherein said spring, in longitudinal cross-section is of a substantially elliptical configuration.

3. The container of claim 2 wherein said spring has opposed planar longitudinal sides.

4. The container of claim 3 wherein each of said first and second retaining means comprises an abutment against which the corresponding end of said spring nests.

5. The container of claim 4 wherein said pivot axis is defined by a pair of longitudinally spaced pivot pins, said spring mounting and folding substantially transversely between said spaced pivot pins.

6. The container of claim 5 wherein said container body has peripheral walls, said hinge assembly including a pair of laterally spaced support arms fixed to one of said container body walls and extending outwardly relative thereto, said pins being mounted on said arms, said hinge assembly further including a pair of laterally spaced pin receiving bearing means on said lid and rotatably receiving said pins.

7. The container of claim 6 including a handle mounted to said container body walls and extending transversely across

said laterally spaced support arms in outwardly spaced relation thereof.

8. The container of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second retaining means comprises an angular seat receiving, retaining and stabilizing the corresponding ends of said spring.

9. The container of claim 8 including a stabilizing projection on said lid extending therefrom and selectively engaging said spring adjacent the central area thereof in said open position of said lid.

10. The container of claim 1 wherein said pivot axis is defined by a pair of longitudinally spaced pivot pins, said spring mounting and folding substantially transversely between said spaced pivot pins.

11. The container of claim 10 wherein said container body has peripheral walls, said hinge assembly including a pair of laterally spaced support arms fixed to one of said container body walls and extending outwardly relative thereto, said pins being mounted on said arms, said hinge assembly further including a pair of laterally spaced pin receiving bearing means on said lid and rotatably receiving said pins.

12. In a container including a container body and lid, pivot means mounting said lid to said body for pivotal movement of the lid relative to said body between an open position and a closed position, an elastomeric spring positioned between said container body and said lid, said spring being of a generally elliptical configuration with a central area of maximum thickness and longitudinally opposed ends of minimum thickness, retaining means on said container body and said lid for respectively receiving and retaining the opposed ends of said spring, said spring, in said open position of said lid, extending linearly with minimal elastic deformation, said spring, in said closed position of said lid, being folded at the area of maximum thickness centrally on itself and in maximum elastic deformation.

13. The container of claim 12 wherein longitudinal upper and lower surfaces on said spring are equally and oppositely arced.

14. The container of claim 13 wherein opposed longitudinal faces on said spring are planar and parallel to each other.

15. The container of claim 14 wherein the retaining means on said container and lid freely receive the opposed ends of said spring with the elasticity of said spring

retaining said spring ends in engagement with said retaining means.

16. A spring for use in resiliently biasing a container lid from a closed position to an open position about a pivot axis relative to a container body, said spring comprising a block of elastomeric material having a central foldable area of mazimum thickness and tapering to opposed ends of minimal thickness which are adapted to selectively engage with the container body and lid with the area of maximum thickness alignable with the pivot axis.

17. The spring of claim 16 wherein said block of elastomeric material is of a generally ellipsoidal configuration having oppositely arcing upper and lower faces and opposed planar side faces.

18. The spring of claim 17 wherein said oppositely arcing upper and lower faces are of equal and opposite arcs.

19. The spring of claim 18 wherein the opposed ends of minimal thickness are of equal thickness.